



FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION SCLBC NEWSLETTER

This February 2025 Edition highlights the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus's (SCLBC) events and activities happening during the month.



MESSAGE FROM SCLBC CHAIR Rep. Annie E. McDaniel

Dear SCLBC Members, Friends and Fellow South Carolinians,

Reflecting on Black History Month, I am reminded of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's visionary efforts in creating Negro History Week in 1926. His vision ensured that the invaluable contributions of African Americans would never be erased from history. This legacy continues to inspire us today, and as Chair of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC), I wholeheartedly embrace the use of Black history and culture as powerful tools in our ongoing struggle for racial uplift.

February is a particularly busy month for many African American elected officials. We find ourselves moving from place to place, room to room, church to church, meeting to meeting—wherever we can go to share our stories and the stories of those African Americans who were unable to tell their own. These stories are our weapon in our struggle for racial uplift, and we share them with people of all nationalities to highlight the invaluable contributions of our people.

This February, the members of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus had the honor of highlighting some of our many “Unsung African Americans” at each legislative session. For those unsung heroes who were still alive and able to attend the sessions where they were recognized, it was truly heartwarming to see the look of gratitude and appreciation on their faces.

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) had the privilege of recognizing numerous unsung African Americans throughout the month. Each legislative session in February featured highlights of these individuals, ensuring their invaluable contributions were celebrated and remembered. The gratitude and appreciation on the faces of those who were able to attend these sessions was truly heartwarming.

Additionally, the SCLBC sponsored several significant events, such as the Recognition of African Americans from the session floor, HBCU Day, the Black History Reception, and the 6888 bill. These events served as a reminder of the importance of preserving and sharing our history, celebrating the achievements and sacrifices of those who paved the way for future generations. The dedication of the SCLBC and its members ensures that the legacy of these unsung heroes will

continue to inspire and uplift future generations.

In closing, I extend a special thanks to the members of the SCLBC for their increased visibility and dedication to their communities. Your tireless efforts ensure that our history, culture, and contributions continue to be celebrated and remembered.

Yours in the Struggle for Justice and Service,
Rep. Annie E. McDaniel
Chair, South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus



The 126th South Carolina General Assembly convenes

The first regular session of the 126th South Carolina General Assembly convened on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, marking the beginning of another year of impactful legislation and service to the people of South Carolina. January 14th was the first SCLBC meeting of the year and our initial time to gather and begin work on critical issues facing our communities, including energy, education, healthcare access and affordability, economic development, and public safety.

The month of February of the legislative session included numerous bills.

Priorities Update

- H-3039 Rep. Gilliard and S247 Senator Jackson - Hate Crime
- H-3578 Cursive Writing Requirement Rep. Rivers
- H-3458 Religious Institutions Affordable Housing Act - Rep. Jones

Bills to Watch:

- S-62 Voucher Bill (Passed in the Senate Now in the House)
- H-3309 Electrical Utilities (Passed in the House, now in the Senate)
- H3297 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The SC Legislative Black Caucus meets each Tuesday while the Legislature is in session.



NBCSL
National Black Caucus
of State Legislators



Harold M. Love Jr.

President of the National Black
Caucus of State Legislators
Tennessee State Representative

MEMBERS PLEASE JOIN THE NBCSL

Membership Benefits

Policy Influence

Shape legislation and advocate for change by joining any of our 15 policy committees. NBCSL members can also endorse resolutions and access model legislation from other states to benefit their constituents.

Networking Opportunities

Connect with a national network of legislators, policymakers, and advocates. Our events, conferences, and meetings provide a space for collaboration and knowledge sharing with fellow legislators and Corporate Round Table (CRT) members.

Educational Resources

Through the Public Policy and Research Institute (PPRI), members can access a wide range of research reports, policy briefs, and expert analyses to stay informed about the latest legislative trends and issues.

Professional Development

Enhance your skills and knowledge through workshops, seminars, and training sessions specifically designed to support your growth as a legislator.

Annual Legislative Conference

Attend our signature event, which brings together members, thought leaders, and community advocates to discuss critical issues and celebrate achievements.

Membership Digital Directory Reporting Platform

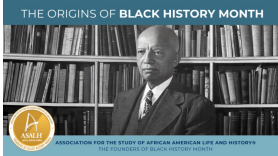
Gain access to our digital directory, which facilitates communication and reporting among members, ensuring that you are always connected and informed.

THE CAUCUS IN ACTION: FEBRUARY REFLECTIONS



South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Celebrated Black History Month

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) celebrated Black History Month, an observance that first began as Negro History Week through the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and South Carolina native Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune.



“In observance of Black History Month, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus reflected on the contributions and achievements of unsung Black Americans in South Carolina and throughout the nation,” Rep. Annie E. McDaniel, SCLBC Chairwoman, stated.

For the last 52 years, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for the citizens of South Carolina. During the month of February, the SCLBC will honor and recognize individuals throughout South Carolina who continue to “... *reach toward the sun, but feed from a common root.*”

This month is a time to reflect and celebrate the accomplishments, sacrifices, and contributions of those who paved the way for generations to come.

Each day of the month of February, the SCLBC honored and paid homage to individuals during the Legislative Session.

- Mrs. Mary Lucille Kennedy McDaniel
- Mr. Kenneth Singleton
- Mr. John Furgess
- Mrs. Liz Keitt
- Mr. Alfred Rush
- Ms. Sarah Flemming Brown
- Mr. Cephis Anderson
- Senator Kay Patterson
- Chief Justice (Ret.) Donald Beatty
- Mrs. Henrietta Lacks
- Mr. Louis Armstrong
- The Honorable Lonnie Hamilton, III.
- Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley
- Mrs. Beverly Clyburn
- Mr. Cecil Williams
- SCLBC Past Chairs



Dr. Charles H. Wesley, Louis R. McHenry, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Dr. Carter G. Woodson



Mrs. Mary Lucille Kennedy McDaniel



Mr. John Furgess



Mr. Louis Armstrong



Mrs. Beverly Clyburn



FAIRFIELD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAM & PRINCIPAL TRACIE SWILLEY RECOGNIZED

Fairfield Central High School Boys Track Team, Coaches, and School Officials were recognized for an outstanding season and winning the 2024 South Carolina Class AA State Championship Title.

Dr. Tracie Anderson Swilley, principal of Fairfield Central High School was recognized and honored on being named 2025 National Principal of the year by the National Association of Secondary Principals.



Maj. Charity Adams and Capt. Abbie Campbell at the unit's first inspection.
Army Historical Foundation photo

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION Honoring the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus is proud to announce that a

concurrent resolution was made on February 27th, 2025 by the General Assembly to recognize and honor the remarkable members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Known as the “Six Triple Eight,” this all-Black, all-female unit of the Women’s Army Corps made history during World War II by clearing a massive backlog of mail for U.S. troops stationed in Europe. Their dedication and persistence ensured that millions of letters and packages reached soldiers, strengthening the connections between service members and their loved ones.

Despite serving their country with distinction, the women of the 6888th faced both racial and gender discrimination. Yet, through resilience and determination, they not only completed their mission ahead of schedule but also paved the way for future generations of Black women in the military. This resolution is a long-overdue acknowledgment of their sacrifice and service, ensuring their legacy is honored and remembered. The 6888th Battalion embodies the spirit of perseverance and excellence, and we celebrate their contributions to history with deep gratitude and respect.

As we reflect on the impact of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, we recognize that their story is a powerful reminder of the role Black women have played in shaping our nation’s history. Their bravery and dedication serve as an inspiration for all who continue to fight for justice, equality, and recognition. The South Carolina State Legislative Black Caucus remains committed to uplifting and preserving the legacies of Black trailblazers, ensuring their contributions are never forgotten.

Members of the 6888th Battalion from South Carolina

Adams, Charity Edna MAJ
Bacote, Alva B PFC
Balloon, Lucile M PVT
Hairston, Lucille Miller PFC
Holmes, Wilhelmina Lorenza PVT
Jackson, Hazel Stanford PFC
Jackson, Novella Ernestine PFC
Lipscomb, Ruby L PFC
Mazyck, Vivian Alice SGT
Poole, Carolyn Blondell PVT
Smalls, Ann E PFC
Taylor, Ermene Elizabeth PFC
Turner, Jennie Ruth CPL.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, ADVANCING CHANGE

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE

The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated visited the State House to champion their 2025 theme, "Empowering Communities, Advancing Change!" This theme underscores their unwavering dedication to social justice and impactful change.

Adorned in their sorority's colors of pink and green, the AKA members commenced their day by engaging with their local legislators at the State House. They received special recognition from their Soror, Representative Chandra Dillard, for their remarkable community contributions. Also in attendance was Representative Rosalyn Henderson-Myers, another distinguished Soror serving in the legislature. Former Representative Patricia Moore Henegan, also an AKA, moderated the Town Hall Meeting, which concentrated on mobilizing young voters and addressing key issues of 2025. Tiffany Moore Russell, Esq., South Atlantic Regional Director, delivered a motivating charge to her fellow AKAs: "Toughen Up, Understand the Fight, Navigate and Empower Each Other."

The day concluded with a traditional photo session on the steps of the State House, encapsulating the unity and determination that epitomizes Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.



Awareness * Action * Advocacy ***Deltas In The Capital City***

The members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated from across the state of South Carolina held a three day event focused on Awareness, Action and Advocacy. The ladies of Delta gathered at the Brookland Baptist Church Conference Center on February 11, 2025 and met with the “*Delta Trio*” of legislative members, Sen. Tameika Isaac Devine, Rep. Annie E. McDaniel, and Rep. Tiffany Spann-Wilder. Like the founders of the sorority, who were on the front lines in the Suffrage Movement, members were eager to learn how they could assist with efforts for change in the state.

The “*Delta Trio*” held a panel discussion where they provided members with legislative updates and gave them an opportunity to ask questions. The information they provided will be useful as the sorority strengthens its social action platform with *fortitude and resilience*.

Delta Days at the State Capital is an annual event. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Florence Alumnae hosted the event under the guidance of Audrey Lane, SC Social Action Coordinator & Kaci Dozier, SC Social Action Co Coordinator. The event addresses social action issues pertaining to the legislative agenda in SC.





Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Day in South Carolina



Photo: Javar Juarez/CUBNSC

On February 22, 2022, Governor Henry McMaster signed House Bill 4576, officially designating the third Thursday in February as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day. This landmark bill, introduced by Representative Deon Tedder (now Senator Tedder), acknowledges the strengths and myriad contributions of South Carolina's eight HBCUs: Clinton

College, South Carolina State University, Allen University, Morris College, Benedict College, Claflin University, Voorhees University, and Denmark Technical College.

Excitement and anticipation filled the State House as Presidents and students from these esteemed institutions gathered to mark the occasion. The students, dressed professionally in school blazers, tiaras, and crowns, exemplified the qualities of future leaders. Their presence demonstrated that HBCU students are diverse, confident, and ready to accept the challenges of leadership.

The day commenced with a networking breakfast, providing students and Presidents with opportunities to participate in empowerment sessions and engage with members of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus. College and University Presidents proudly introduced themselves and their student leaders, creating a sense of family and unity among the HBCU community.

During the morning, HBCU delegations participated in sessions focused on financial literacy, the significance of HBCUs, and Black Wall Street, while the Presidents and their student leaders attended the Weekly Meeting of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus. The highlight of the day was Governor Henry McMaster's address to the students, where he expressed his support and encouraged them to continue their education.

The attendees then walked to the State House, where they participated in a press conference, showcasing their leadership and readiness to tackle future challenges. Before heading to Benedict College for lunch and an HBCU competition, the students took their traditional photographs on the steps of the State House.



Gov. Henry McMaster



Senator Deon Tedder

Photo: Javar Juarez/CUBNSC



Photo: Javar Juarez/CUBNSC

THE CAUCUS IN THE COMMUNITY



Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Interstate Access for Scout Motors

The South Carolina Department of Transportation along with local and state officials and Scout Motors leadership participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Scout Motors Drive Interchange Project. The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus was represented by Chair, Rep. Annie E. McDaniel, Sen. Tameika Isaac Devine, Rep. Hamilton R. Grant, Rep. Jermaine L. Johnson, Sr., and Rep. Kambrell H. Garvin.

Officials at Scout Motors anticipated the additional traffic their new plant would cause in the area. With a new state-of-the-art facility being built off of the I-77-North interstate, the facility is designed to create over 4,000 permanent jobs. there is a need to provide options to keep the traffic flowing smoothly.

The new interstate access for the Scout Motors Interchange will provide a dedicated connection to I-77 to help keep truck traffic confined and provide access for future economic development.

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus looks forward to

collaborating with fellow members of the South Carolina Legislature to bring more companies to South Carolina to boost the economy and provide jobs.



A Call to Action: Become Changemakers in Your Own Right

Students, faculty, and staff at Lewisville High School eagerly gathered to listen to their special guest speaker for the Black History Month program, Representative Annie E. McDaniel, Chair of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus.

Assistant Principal April Morgan praised Representative McDaniel as a trailblazer in South Carolina politics and a dedicated advocate for education and community empowerment. Her presence was a powerful reminder of perseverance, leadership, and the importance of civic engagement. Drawing from her personal experiences and professional milestones, Representative McDaniel emphasized the value of education, resilience, and community service.

Representative McDaniel inspired the students, encouraging them to embrace their potential and become changemakers in their own right. Her words resonated deeply with everyone in attendance, highlighting the rich history and contributions of African Americans in South Carolina and the nation.

As the first African American woman elected to represent their district, House District #41, and as the Chair of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, Representative McDaniel's speech was seen as "A Call to Action" to motivate students, faculty, and staff to become changemakers.



Grand Marshal- The Honorable Maggie L. Glover
Former Senator and 2nd Female SCLBC Chair

20 Years of Celebrating Our Heritage **Grand Finale Black History Parade and Festival**

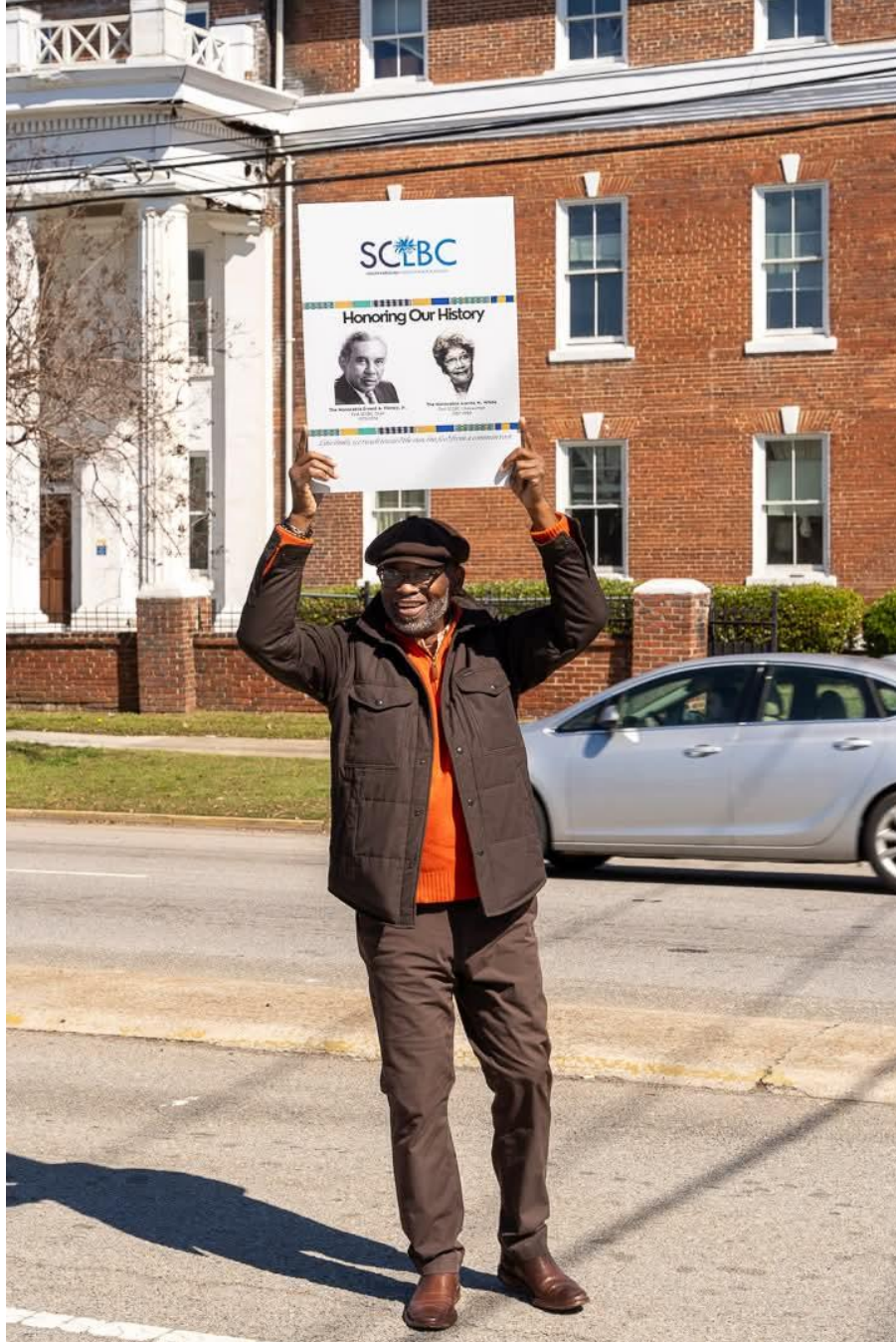
Parades bring out a sense of excitement, wonder and anticipation in us. They cause us to reflect on the days when we

were young and carefree. Memorable parades are filled with beautiful floats, vibrant colors, and infectious energy. The Grand Finale Black History Parade and Festival had all those elements. The crowds lined the streets, they were cheered and waved as the participants in the parade rode by them. In the midst of the parade participants, there were some members, who represented the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus excitedly waving to the crowd, Chair, Rep. Annie E. McDaniel, Rep. Robert T. Reese and Rep. Jermaine L. Johnson, Sr.

The Grand Marshal for the parade was Former Senator Maggie L. Glover who had served as the Chair of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus during her tenure. Actress and Comedian Annie McKnight provided entertainment at the festival.

This year's parade and festival were special because it celebrated twenty years of celebrating Black History and Unity. As promised, the event was a powerful and unforgettable celebration which highlighted our diverse and collective journey.

The parade and the festival were sponsored by The Friends United as a Neighborhood Developmental Society, Inc. (F.U.N.D.S., Inc.). Founded by Ms. L. Oveta Glover, the mission of F.U.N.D.S., INC. is to *infiltrate through the community as a non-profit public benefit tax exempt corporation that will amplify educational, promotional, and financial activities for other non-profit organizations which will enhance their causes and endeavors.*



Rep. Robert Reese







Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Black History Month & Pre-Women's History Month Reception

It was the remarks from some of the past chairs of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus that set the tone for the evening at the Black History Month & Pre-Women's History Month Reception. This reception honored some of the past chairs of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and it recognized a famous South Carolinian who was featured in the movie *The Six Triple Eight*.

Speaking on behalf of her father, The Honorable Theo W. Mitchell, who was the second chair of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, Dr. Megan Mitchell-Hoefner reminisced on her days as a child where she interacted with the SCLBC members at various events. She would sit and listen to them strategize as they prepared for the legislative session during their annual meeting. The lessons she learned from them helped

to prepare her for the future.

As the first African American woman to be elected as a member of the South Carolina Senate and the first female chair of the SCLBC, The Honorable Maggie W. Glover made sure that those persons in attendance knew how to accomplish their goals. She began her remarks by quoting The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said: *"It may be well that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition is not the glaring noisiness of bad people, but the appalling silence of good people."* If you really want to accomplish something, you cannot remain silent, and you must stay with the decisions that the group makes.

Former SCLBC Chair, Rep. I. S. Leevy Johnson told those in attendance about the early days of the SCLBC where they strategized and worked hard to be a part of each legislative committee in order to stay abreast of pending legislation. They made a concerted effort to know what was going on so that they could be more effective legislators. Rep. Johnson stressed the importance of teamwork and not remaining silent. You cannot remain silent, even if you do not win.

Lieutenant Colonel Charity Edna Adams Earley was recognized by the SCLBC as one of the women portrayed in *The Six Triple Eight* movie written and produced by Tyler Perry. The movie tells the story of the first all-Black Women's Army Corps (WAC) unit to serve in Europe during World War II. These women joined the war effort to address a three-year mail backlog. Despite discrimination and war-torn conditions, they sorted over seventeen million pieces of mail ahead of schedule. Lt. Col. Earley was a charter member and served as the first President of the Beta Beta Sigma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., now known as Columbia (SC) Alumnae Chapter.

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus stands on the shoulders of many African American giants who have empowered them to help to shape the laws of South Carolina and this nation. The inspirational stories of our giants are a reminder of the struggles they endured to protect our freedoms. We must learn from them as we continue the fight for justice and equality.



WEEKLY MEETING UPDATES

Guest Presenters

February 4 Zakiya Mickle - Energy Justice Coalition

February 18 Bonita Clemons - FarmaSis



FARMASIS Women Can Provide A Lifeline for the Health of Everyone

Speaking to a captivated audience at a meeting of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC), Bonita Clemons passionately proclaimed that farming has always been in her blood. Her love for the profession was evident throughout her interactive presentation. From a young age, Clemons knew she wanted to farm, and even after graduating from Benedict College, her passion for farming remained unwavering. She pursued her dream and is now making a healthy difference in the lives of many. In a male-dominated industry, Clemons was named the South Carolina Farmer of the Year in 2023 by the South Carolina Black Farmers Coalition.

Clemons shared with the SCLBC her desire to educate other Black women about farming, which led her to establish FARMASIS. At FARMASIS, Clemons hosts weekly outdoor classes off of Farrow Road, where she teaches women the "whys," "hows," "ins," and "outs" of farming. She provides guidance on how to make their gardens profitable, emphasizing that women can indeed make a living from farming, just like men. Clemons firmly believes that farming encourages healthier eating habits, and she proudly consumes everything she grows.

Through her dedication and efforts, Bonita Clemons is not only empowering women but also promoting a healthier lifestyle for everyone. Her work serves as an inspiration and a testament to the impact that passionate individuals can have on their communities.

MEMBER BIRTHDAY RECOGNITIONS

February

Sen. Darrell Jackson.....	February 1
Sen. Margie Bright Matthews.....	February 10
Rep. Tiffany Spann-Wilder	February 1
Rep. Carl Anderson.....	February 10

March

Rep. JA Moore.....	March 6
Rep. Justin Bamberg.....	March 7
Rep. Chandra Dillard.....	March 10
Rep. Wendell Jones	March 12
Rep. Jerry Govan	March 17

Legislative Update

Stay connected with the SCLBC as we lead with purpose, advocate for change, and build a stronger, more inclusive South Carolina and follow your legislators.

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/index.php>

2025 Dates to Remember

Key March General Session Dates

- Tuesday, March 4, 2025 – SCLBC Meeting – Solomon Blatt Building, Room 305 at 10:00 A.M.
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – SCLBC Meeting – Solomon Blatt Building, Room 305 at 10:00 A.M.
- Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – SCLBC Meeting – Solomon Blatt Building, Room 305 at 10:00 A.M.
- March 11-13, 2025 - House Floor Budget Deliberations
- In observance of Women's History Month, the SCLBC will honor and pay homage to unsung individuals during the Legislative Session.



SC Legislative Black Caucus

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2025-2026 SCLBC Executive Committee

Chair

Representative Annie E. McDaniel
District 41 - Chester, Fairfield & Richland Counties

Chair-Elect

Representative Michael Rivers
District 121 – Beaufort & Colleton Counties

Secretary

Representative Wendell Jones
District 25 – Greenville County

Treasurer

Representative Robert Williams
District 62 – Darlington & Florence Counties

Parliamentarian

Representative Heather Bauer
District 25 – Richland County

Chaplain

Representative Carl Anderson
District 103 – Berkeley, Georgetown & Horry Counties

SCLBC Corporate Roundtable Partners

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) acknowledges the invaluable contributions of our Corporate Roundtable Partners, whose active participation and generous support have been instrumental to our success. SCLBC is set apart from other political-based caucuses because of its status as a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(4) advocacy organization. The SCLBC purpose focuses on addressing critical issues and providing impactful services, and providing public policy solutions to challenges and issues facing Black and minority communities in South Carolina. We are deeply grateful for the support of our Corporate Roundtable Partners, who play a vital role in helping us achieve our shared vision of advancing equitable policies and empowering communities across South Carolina. Together, we are making a lasting impact.

SUPPORT SCLBC BY JOINING THE CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE

CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE PARTNERS



Please contact SCLBC2025@gmail.com for information to become a 2025 SCLBC Corporate Roundtable Partner.



The SCLBC website is under construction and will be live very soon. We are updating content. Stay tuned.





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